

HOWNINKAN

PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

Vol. 20, No. 12

Citizen Potawatomi Nation

December 1998



Officially Underway

Loretta Miller, Clinic Assistant Director; Joyce Abel, Clinic Director; Bob Dunning, General Contractor; John "Rocky" Barrett, Tribal Chairman; Mike Holleyman, project architect; Linda Capps, Tribal Vice Chairman; Gene Bruno, Tribal Secretary-Treasurer; Hilton Melot, Tribal Committeeman; Braven Dyer, BIA; Gerrie Norton, HUD; and Sonja Key, HUD; prepare to turn the first spades of earth on the Potawatomi Nation Clinic expansion. More photos are on page 12.

Tribe, tribal member honored by state business group

By Michael Dodson

(Tulsa, OK) – The Citizen Potawatomi Nation and a tribal member were among the honorees as the Tulsa-based Oklahoma Native American Business Development Center (ONABDC) honored accomplishments in several areas.

The Nation was honored as **Native American Business of the Year** for 1998. Carmelita Wamego Skeeter, Executive Director of the Indian Health Resource Center in Tulsa,

earned recognition as 1998's **Outstanding Community Leader**.

The Potawatomi Nation owns and operates several businesses. These include: First National Bank and Trust Co. of Shawnee; FireLake Entertainment, with a Bingo hall, off-track horse wagering parlor, Las Vegas Room, and 24-lane, state-of-the-art bowling center; Potawatomi Tribal Store, a convenience store; Potawatomi Gift Shop and Museum;

Charlie's at FireLake Restaurant; FireLake Golf Course and Pro Shop; AM 1450 KGFF Radio; and, Potawatomi Nation Industrial Services, a paint contracting and sandblasting firm.

The ONABDC award focused on the Potawatomi Nation's management of First National Bank. The Potawatomi Nation is the only Native American Nation which owns 100% of the stock of and manages a federally chartered

bank.

The Nation purchased FNB in 1989; at the time, it had assets of \$14 million. Through prudent management, FNB has grown its assets to more than \$55 million.

Linda Capps, Potawatomi Nation Vice Chairman, accepted the award. "First National is now Shawnee's fastest-growing and only locally-owned bank," Ms. Capps said.

Continued on page 12



Carmelita Wamego Skeeter

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TRIBAL TRACTS

Walking on ...

Opal Marie (Pappan) Flanagan

Opal Marie (Pappan) Flanagan, age 63, passed away Tuesday, November 24, 1998. She was born to Richard and Viola Pappan on December 18, 1924 in Okemah, Oklahoma. Opal was a welder in a Portland shipyard during World War II and a nursing home assistant until retirement. She was educated at an Indian boarding school in Kay City, Oklahoma, and graduated from Okmulgee High School.

She is survived by her children, Patricia McElhaney of Oroville, Ca., James Cromwell of Kansas City, Sheryl Wilkens of Las Vegas, Nevada, Alan Cromwell of Oroville, Ca., and Kenny Cromwell of Reno, Nevada; and grandchildren Sheri Hansen, Roddy Munoz, Karen Gold, Lisa Cromwell, Steven Cromwell, Nicholette Cromwell, Joseph Johnson, Wayne Johnson, and Austin Wilkens.

Estella Mae Shopteese

Estella Mae Shopteese, age 97, was born December 19, 1900 in Sacred Heart, Oklahoma, to Peter Shipshewano and Julia Bruno. She moved to Oklahoma City in 1982 from Amarillo, Texas. She was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe T. Shopteese;

a son Frank T. Shopteese; and a son, Melford J. Shopteese. She is survived by a daughter, Vernice C. Metcalfe, 10 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and 4 great great grandchildren, and many special nephews and nieces.

Evening prayer service was held Wednesday, November 4, 1998, at 8:00 p.m. at Smith & Kernke Funeral Chapel. Funeral service was held Thursday, November 5, 1998 at 10:00 a.m., at Smith & Kernke Funeral Chapel. Committal service was held Friday, November 6, 1998, at 12:00 p.m., at Llano Cemetery in Amarillo, Texas.

Tommy Ray Whitecotton

Tommy Ray Whitecotton, 50, died Wednesday, November 25, 1998, in a Tulsa hospital. He was born November 18, 1948, in Shawnee, Oklahoma to Bill and Janet (Howell) Whitecotton. He graduated from Shawnee High School in 1967. He was preceded in death by his father.

He is survived by his wife, Johnnie, of the home; four children, Andrea Whitecotton, Norman; Jeffery and Cindy Whitecotton, Alicia Whitecotton, and Erika Whitecotton, all of Stillwater; his mother, Jeanette Whitecotton, Stidham; two brothers and sisters-in-law, David and Margie Whitecotton and Richard

and Renee Whitecotton, all of Shawnee; two grandchildren; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. Tommy was a descendent of Madeline Toupin.

Kenneth Milton Walter

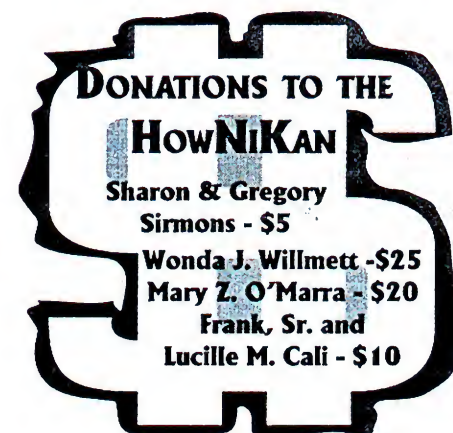
Kenneth Milton Walter, a retired teacher and coach, died on November 18, 1998 in Kenner, LA. Mr. Walter had taught in South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa. He had worked for Northrup Seed Co. in Washington and Iowa before retiring to LaPlace, LA in 1985.

Mr. Walter was born in Pleasant Township, near Beresford, South Dakota, on March 20, 1924 to William and Maude Muller Walter. In 1942, he graduated from Beresford High School. In 1948, he graduated from Dakota Wesleyan, in Mitchell, South Dakota. While at Dakota Wesleyan, he played football, serving as captain of the team during his senior year.

In May 1945, Mr. Walter enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served as a Tech 4, with Battery A-667, as a heavy machine gunner in the Ardennes, Rhineland, and central Europe campaigns. After World War II ended, he played football in the camp leagues in the Nuremberg, Germany area, before returning to the States.

Survivors include: Mr. Walter's wife of 51 years, Margaret, of LaPlace, LA.; two daughters, Diana Hansen of Des Moines, IA and Cheryl Walter of La Place; one son, David Walter of Macon, GA; one granddaughter, Dana Hansen; two step-granddaughters, Regina and April Patterson; one sister, Vera Lothrop of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; one brother, Donald Walter of Springhill, FL. Preceding Mr. Walter were his parents and 3 brothers, LeRoy, Leonard, and James and one sister, Norma Jean.

Kenneth's mother Maude was raised in the Wanette, Oklahoma area by her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. William Muller. Her parents were James Brigham Muller (son of Alex and Eliza Muller) and Mary Stevens.



HOWNIKAN PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

The HowNiKan is published by the Business Committee of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation with offices at 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801.

The HowNiKan is mailed free to enrolled tribal members. Subscriptions to non-members are available for \$10 annually in the United States and \$12 for foreign countries.

The HowNiKan is a member of the Native American Journalists Association. Reprint permission is granted with publication credit to the HowNiKan and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

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All correspondence should be directed to HowNiKan, 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Ok. 74801. Address changes should be sent to Potawatomi Tribal Rolls, 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Business Committee
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Vice Chairman - Linda Capps
Sec./Treasurer - Gene Bruno
Committeeman - Hilton Melot
Committeeman - Jerry P. Motley

Toll-Free Number: 1-800-880-9880
<http://www.potawatomi.org>

Whereabouts unknown

Tribal Rolls is updating files. If you have information on any of the people listed below, please contact us.

Edward Krapp Adams
Baptiste Baptiste
Joseph Barnete
Martha Dora Barnete
Thomas John Beaubien
Mitchell Bellare
Esther May Black
John R. Blair
Lewis Blair
Thomas Blair
George Bostic
Daniel Brasher
Helen J. Brummett
Raymond Burnett
Flora Matilda Cook
Laverne S. Coombe
Charles Coon
Clarissa Coon
Diane M. Darnell
Patricia Duray
Bertha Edgerton
George Edgerton

Julia Etienne
Adam Ezell
Jesse Ezell
John W. Ezell
Nora C. Ezell
Willie P. Ezell
Cleveland Francour
Demorse Francour
Eugene Francour
Eugenia Francour
Evangeline Francour
Harline Francour
Marjorie Francour
Noel Francour
Parmelia Francour
Parnell M. Francour
Prim Francour
Vanda Francour
Martha A. Frapp
Norman Frapp
Elizabeth Fuller
John W. Hale
Andrew Hampton
Joseph Harder
Thomas Hardin
Nellie M. Hendrickson
Ruby Hindman

Julia Hubbard
Dennis Jackson
Jimmie Jackson
Dora Jarvis
George Johnson
Annice L. King
Marguerite Kirkpatrick
Joseph Know-sah
Joseph M. Langau
Donald E. Leonz
Myrtle E. Leonz
Marie A. Mann
Mary Cora Mann
Annette Marquis
Cixerie Marquis
Deniage F. Marquis
Leonard Marquis
Marie Marquis
Norbert Marquis
Wilbert Marquis
Sidney L. Martell
Laura McCumsey
Walter McCumsey
Laura Money
Evelyn Neiswender
Monroe Neiswender
James O'Marra

Joseph Pe-he-wa
Mary Pe-he-wa
Peter Pe-he-wa
Clara L. Peltier
Ida H.J. Penderson
Louise E. Penderson
Millard Penderson
Alexander Phelps
Mable E. Phelps
James Puckie
Katie M. Scantlin
Mildred Schayer
Catherine F. Sheppard
Alice Shubshe
Minnie Snifeldorfer
Ogeal Stanford
Donald Taylor
Pearl Taylor
Charley Thomas
Irvin Thomas
Josephine Thomas
Margaret Tucker
Josephine Wilson
Ermilla Young
Jennie H. Zana
Maude E. Zana

Children's health care helped by federal funds

Federal legislation has erased financial reasons for American children's not receiving proper health care. This legislation set up the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

In Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority administers CHIP as part of its *SoonerCare* program that provides Medicaid health care coverage to eligible Oklahomans. (Because CHIP is the federal-level designation for the program, we will refer to it as the *SoonerCare* children's health initiative.)

Oklahoma legislation establishing the children's health initiative became effective on December 1, 1997. "This program provides free health insurance for uninsured children who are from birth through 17 years old," said Lee Brown, OHCA's Deputy Administrator for Health Systems.

For example, children in a family of four would be eligible for the *SoonerCare* children's health initiative coverage if their family's income is \$30,433 a year or less.

Young people with prior health problems will not be left out of the *SoonerCare* children's health initiative. Additionally, the program is available to pregnant women who meet income guidelines.

Brown said that Native American children who use a tribal clinic or Indian Health Service facility should also enroll in the *SoonerCare* program, if they are eligible.

"This provides another funding source for the tribal clinics and IHS facilities," according to Joyce Abel, Director of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Clinic. "That allows our clinic, and other tribal and IHS facilities, to stretch their own funding further, to serve more people."

Abel said that personnel at the Potawatomi Nation Health Clinic are assisting potential applicants complete the application form. The Potawatomi Clinic also collects and delivers the completed applications.

"When the children's health initiative was set up, we had several choices about how that could be done," Brown said. "Oklahoma had already increased the income level at which women and children are eligible for Medicaid. Therefore, it made sense to have that program become the new *SoonerCare* program."

"Under *SoonerCare*, the state is able to get more money from the federal government, so children in Oklahoma who have never



Pregnant?
Got Kids?
Need Health Care?
DON'T WAIT!
Call SoonerCare
1-800-987-7767
for uninsured families that can't afford Health Care.

been able to have health insurance can be covered – and can receive high quality health care that has not been available to them," Brown said.

Children who live in or near Oklahoma's larger cities, including Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Lawton, will be enrolled in Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO's). "Through these HMO's, children can get most of their health services simply by getting in touch with their primary care physician," Brown explained. "The primary care physician will authorize the neces-

sary care. Almost all of a child's health care needs will be available through the *SoonerCare* HMO."

Children who live in rural areas will also receive a large portion of their health care by calling their primary care provider. "However, unlike with the HMO's," Brown said, "the child's doctor will probably refer him to specialists in his community."

The state government is trying to find eligible children and bring them into the program. "The Oklahoma Department of Human Services has hired 46 people

to go to places frequented by young people to tell them about this opportunity," Brown said. "And, we have simplified the application tremendously, reducing it from 14 pages to just 2."

Reducing the length of the application has shortened the processing time for the program's applicants from 45 days to 20 days. Additionally, it is no longer necessary for applicants to have a face-to-face interview with a DHS caseworker.

"We are very pleased that Oklahoma officials are searching out eligible children and are making it easier to get into the program," Abel said. "This program should be cost effective by preventing the need for more expensive health care measures down the road."

SoonerCare children's health initiative applications are widely available through DHS county offices, County Health Departments, local health clinics, offices of Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Programs, public libraries, and public schools.

Applications and more information are also available by calling 800-987-7767 or the Potawatomi Nation Health Clinic at 405-273-5236.



WELCOME, NEW CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION ENROLLEES!

The following tribal members were enrolled under previous guidelines:

Jamie Leona Wilson
Neena Melissa Shaw
Marvin Derryberry Jr.
Michael Dean Welday
Thomas Troy Denson
Tony Ray Denson
Donna Karen Denson Sanderson
David Wayne Shawn
Daniel Claude Shawn
Velma Lee Shawn Starr
James Allen Shawn
Robert Wade Shawn
Steve Elmer Shawn
Jerry Lou Peery Lynch
Barry Greg Irby
Louis Doc McKay
Cathleen Ione Peeke Short

The following tribal members were enrolled under descendency guidelines:

Tina Carol Derryberry Paige
Tony Derryberry Paige
Julie Ann Derryberry Gilbert
Michael Lee Gilbert
Zachary Patrick Gilbert
Christopher Burns Gilbert
James Alan Derryberry
Mindy Elaine King
Alan Lane

Nickolas Heath Anderson
Joseph Devin Anderson
Trey Walker Biddy
Dillen Thomas Clark
Julie Ann Combs Petry
Erika Nicole Brantley
Ricky Tyler Howell
Misty Dawn Howell
Daniel Richard Fowler
Jessica Jolynn Workman
Kaitlyn Colleen Workman
Pamela Elizabeth Clark
Melissa Darlene Tittle Emery
Riley Jason Vance
Sabrina Louise Chesney McIntyre
Brianna Kelly McIntyre
Hannah Alissa White Smith
Luke Michael White Smith
Mary Elizabeth White Smith
Ryder Matthew Andrews
Rochelle Marie Fowler
Cassandra Stacy Bruce Hicks
Cassandra Sloan Hicks
Amy Marie Pumphrey
Scott Leslie Pumphrey, Jr.
Randall Craig Lauman
Shannon Denise Beesley Thomison
Treston Scott Beesley
Logan Brian Dean Thomison
Carter Gage Thomison
Beverly Sue St. Peter Connelly
Amanda Sue Connelly
Kari Dee Connelly
Patrick Shawn Connelly
Amber Elizabeth Simes
Journey LeAnn Shepherd

Jessie James Whitney
Jakayla Lynn Whitney
Matthew Ryan Miller
McKenna Ann Sissell
Roxanne Marie Wilson Dollins
Nicholas Todd Dollins
Reese Parker Dollins
Troy Claude Denson
Joseph William Denson
Karen Renee Patton Owens
Joseph Isaac Owens
Hananiah Isaiah Owens
Jennifer Nicole Shurley
Ashley Elizabeth Shurley
Ciara Makenzie Quine
Brian Duane Everett
Clenet Michelle Vaughn
Tyler Allen Scott
Taylor Breann Konkell
Myles Flint Johnson
Paige Leslie Stovall
Karmen Stovall
Reid Goff Stovall
Jesse H. Stovall
Caroline Stovall
Lacey Lynn LeBlanc
Kayla Shay LeBlanc
Jake Asher Pasion-Gonzales
Mariah Kayt Robinson
Mason Raylee Robinson
Baylee Renee McGirt
Carrie Denise Moss Daughn
Carissa Marie McAfee
Sara Suzanne Sandhya Foster
Hunter Darrel Thomison
Ebanee Rose LeShea Moyers
Chandler Ross Higgins

Derek Arthur Denson
Candace Patricia Denson
Tony William Johnson
Crystal Lynn Skaggs
Shellynia Marie Kay Johnson
Shiann Tony Nichol Johnson
Daniel Claude Shawn, Jr.
Callie Jo Shawn
Dale Andrew Shawn
Lakota Dean (Quirt) Shawn
Johnnie Andrew Montgomery
Patrick Clint Montgomery
Edgar Lee Starr III
Joshua Allen Shawn
Anna Louise Foster Wylie
Josef Wilhelm Bazhaw
Chad Scott Dayton
Todd Nathan Dayton
Tamra Grace Cook Harbottle
Blake Michael Harbottle
Jason Shawn (Cook) Prader
Kadyn Don Lincoln Reese
Bailey Dianne Hornbuckle
Kelsea Patricia Fox
Donia Michelle Scott
Kimberly Beth Lipinski
Katie Mae Lipinski
Brooke Ann Lipinski
Matthew Glenn Melot
Stephen Mitchell Melot
Heather Ann Bruno
Jamie Lynn Bruno
Rebecca Corrinne Parker Millner
Bailey Hutton Burk
James Allen Booth
Mary Jo Adams
Tyler James Howard

Travis Anthony Bryan
Danielle Michelle Smalley
Lorcen Chase McCarroll
Daniel Aaron Melott
Brandon Lee Melott
Taylor Marie McIntosh
Spencer Nicole Vaught
Mekenzie Cheyenne McIntosh
Ashleigh Marie Snell
David Mark Beam
David Andrew Martinek
Dennis Allen Ogee II
Dennis Allen Ogee III
Kelley Kaylene Ogee
Derek James Bedal
Paige Brandye Ogee
Talena Carol Bright
Aaron WhiteEagle Frazier
Jayson Thomas Campbell
Courtney Nicole Burns
Justin Stanley Whitlow
Chase Lakoda Martin
Braden Layne Martin
Brandon Keith Noel
Dakota Preston Motley
Ann Elizabeth McDonald
Shariisse Heather McDonald
Christopher Perry McDonald
Jacob Brennan Latella
Wayna Laree White
Jon Gregory Grider
Brian Keith Yeager
Jonathon Laughton Short
Christopher Thomas Short
Matthew Paul Sanders

Tribal member returns to school after art career

By Michael Dodson

(Norman, OK) – Barcelona, Spain ... Berlin, Germany ... the Soho section of New York City ... the mountain towns of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana ... Yellowstone National Park ... Taos, New Mexico. Echo Tescier calmly ticked off the exotic, arts-friendly locales that he called home during a 25-year career as an artist.

However, his perspective changed. In his mid-40's, the Citizen Potawatomi tribal member found himself no longer satisfied, despite artistic abilities that continually improved and a style that was constantly changing.

"After moving back to the States, I just wasn't feeling very fulfilled by the whole (art) thing," Tescier explained.

In Dallas, he began working with counselors. That work proved interesting and fulfilling. To make the transition to a counseling career, Tescier knew, he would have to invest four or five years in obtaining a college degree – beginning as a 44-year-old freshman.

It was not an easy decision. But, Tescier took the plunge. Now, one semester from completing work on a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work at the University of Oklahoma, he knows that making that leap of faith has been worth the effort.

The classwork has been enjoyable, and Tescier has made the most of life as a full-time student. "Classes, studies, all that's going great. Now that I'm right at the end, I'm in the major and most of the material I'm now studying I've already had the foundation for in earlier courses."

Tescier declines to call this part of his Bachelor's degree coursework easy. "But, I've pretty much gotten the hang of what they expect me to do," he said.

Tescier has used the University of Oklahoma experience to deepen his knowledge and understanding of his Native American heritage. "I've been a member of several American Indian clubs on campus. That's been a terrific experience, getting to know a lot of the Native American students here."

Scholarship money from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, other tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and foundations and organizations has been an important part of Tescier's ability to achieve his goals.

In a meeting at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation headquar-



Vice Chairman Linda Capps (Left), Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett (Right) Congratulate Tescier

ters on December 4, Tescier was named recipient of the Oklahoma Indian Higher Education Scholarship Administrators Association's annual scholarship.

"I was really shocked that I won it. It was something some tribal members encouraged me to apply for, more than a year ago," Tescier said. "When I went to the luncheon, it was really neat to meet the Chairmen of the scholarship committees from all the tribes and to hear of the work they are doing to help Native Americans achieve an education."

"There's a lot of scholarship money available to Native Americans," Tescier said. "I'm sorta surprised that there are not more American Indians applying for these scholarships."

Tescier has a definite goal for the remainder of his career. "I really want to work as a counselor with American Indians," he explained. "It's just something that's important to me. And, it's important enough an idea to have me doing the things they're asking me to do (to earn a degree)."

With just 5% of Native American students who enroll in college going on to earn degrees, Tescier believes that increased spending for counselors and other student retention programs would be a wise investment of BIA and tribal dollars.

There is a need on the University of Oklahoma campus for the skills he is developing, Tescier believes. "I hope that there is some way that, particularly on this campus, I can be a counselor. I just know that students are out

there with questions and discouragement."

There have been some discouraging times for Native American students at O.U. during the 1990's. The low points are the two incidents involving desecration of tipis set up for Native American Heritage celebrations.

Tescier says that O.U. President David Boren has helped make progress toward ending the overt racism and making Native American students an integral part of the student body.

"I see it as a need to build bridges for Indians to come from their traditions, from their tribes, from their families to be a part of the university," he said. "I know that President Boren has done a lot to make the University of Oklahoma more pro-Indian."

Such steps as bringing back the Allen Hauser sculptures that had been in storage and putting a collection of Native American artists' works in the Bizzell Memorial Library make Native American students feel more at home, Tescier believes.

Tescier and fellow members of the American Indian Social work Association at O.U. recently went the extra mile to make Christmas 1998 more enjoyable for two Native American families, one of them a Citizen Potawatomi family.

"Our association's faculty sponsor, a Choctaw, suggested that, as a project, we find some Native American families who could use assistance during the holidays," Tescier said. "So, we collected donations of some simple things — shampoos, school supplies, and other things that they could not buy



Tescier Accepts Scholarship Award From Patsy Cooper

with food stamps and assistance vouchers."

"What this means to me," Tescier said, "is that we can help each other, on an intertribal basis, show a lot of reciprocity. That's what being an American Indian is all about."

As President of the Alliance of Indigenous People at O.U., Tescier has set up programs to enrich native students' on-campus experience. "The Elders Speak" is an example.

"We have had many of the older native professors come to our group meetings, to tell stories of their youth and pass on much of their expertise to

our students here," Tescier explained. "It was terrific!"

It is all but a universal truth that continuing one's education is automatically a good thing. Despite that, Tescier cautions people considering entering or returning to college later in life to do so with eyes wide open.

"Don't just go in there blindly. There are a lot of things against an older student who goes back to school," Tescier warned. "But, I think that, if you can talk through some of those things and prepare yourself for these challenges, it can be a most rewarding experience."

WINTER FEAST & CEREMONIES

January 28 - 31, 1999

Thursday 28th

Ceremonies: Sunrise - Noon - Sunset

Friday 29th

Ceremonies: Sunrise - Noon - Sunset

Saturday 30th

Ceremonies: Sunrise - Noon - Sunset

Sunday 31st

Ceremonies: Sunrise - Noon

Ceremonies end after the Noon feast on Sunday the 31st. Ceremonies are scheduled at the above times. Please contact Tracey Gibson at 275-3121, ext. 270 or Norman Kiker, at ext. 232, if you will be attending. The toll-free number is 800-880-9880. The fax number is 405-878-4668.

Tribal member comes home to run apartment complex

By Michael Dodson

The desire to be nearer her parents and three sisters in Shawnee has brought Janice Gardner back home. The Shawnee High School graduate had built a satisfying career within the real estate industry, working with the large, Dallas-based real estate development company Trammell Crow.

Since returning, Gardner has found a way to put her experience to productive use. She is managing the recently opened Chapel Ridge Apartment community on 45th Street near Union Street in north Shawnee.

"After moving to Dallas in 1971, I worked in the real estate business for about ten years with other companies, as well as Trammell Crow," Gardner said. After that, she moved into Trammell Crow's Accounting Division. Another promotion took Gardner into Trammell Crow's Residential Division. That work involved managing apartment communities.

ERC Properties, headquartered in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, is Gardner's employer. During a weekend trip home from Dallas, she saw a sign announcing the pending beginning of construction of the Chapel Ridge community.

"I had always wanted to come back to Shawnee. But, it had been difficult to find work here that I was interested in," Gardner explained. "Thinking this looked like a wonderful place that was about to be built, I checked into it."

After several months, Gardner received a call offering her the position of Property Director of Chapel Ridge Apartments – and the opportunity to live near family members again.

"As Property Director, I oversee pretty much the whole operation as far as managing day-to-day business, lease-up (to full occupancy), and the accompanying paperwork and tenant relations," Gardner told the *HowNiKan*.

With the apartment community's first phase complete, Gardner is in charge of 144 units. Another six buildings, with 64 more units, are under construction at the site. Some of these will be townhomes.



Gardner Outside Chapel Ridge Clubhouse

Weather permitting, Gardner is hoping the new units will be ready for occupancy some time in the January through March period.

"ERC's forte is building quality apartment communities that feature affordable rents in cities that need housing," Gardner said. "Chapel Ridge is a gated community. Rents begin at \$350-a-month for a one-bedroom apartment home."

When requested by a *HowNiKan* reporter to persuade him to rent an apartment, Gardner replied, "First, we have a fabulous location, near I-40 and Shawnee Mall. There are washer-dryer connections in every apartment, as well as an on-premises laundry and a sparkling swimming pool."

Gardner is also proud of Chapel Ridge's junior high-sized gymnasium. "This is not a fitness center, it is a gymnasium with a basketball courts and places to play volleyball, ping pong, and many other games. We also have soccer and softball fields on the corner of our community."

Chapel Ridge tenants also have access to a clubhouse, which features a surround-sound television/VCR setup and a stereo system. Chapel Ridge offers movies for



Gardner At Her Desk

tenants to watch in the clubhouse, and books for their reading pleasure.

One characteristic that one recognizes in Gardner after just a few minutes of casual observation is a determined attention to getting the details right. That seems to carry over into her attention to the apartment community's appearance. Gardner says that, despite some very long work hours during the community's first months, she has gained tremendous personal satisfaction from her

job.

This work has allowed Gardner to satisfy some basic parts of her personality. She explained: "I love people. And, I'm a creative person. I like to take something and make it look good."

Gardner says that the return to Shawnee also represents an opportunity to re-discover her Citizen Potawatomi heritage. "Unfortunately, I don't know a great deal about my Potawatomi history. Some of the papers that would tell me about it have been lost over time."

Her parents are Don and Lola Duvall. Her sisters, all three of whom live in Shawnee, are Diane Lawrence, Cathy Harmon, and Teresa Story. Her 26-year-old son, David Gardner, works for Immanuel Baptist Church in Shawnee and for Oklahoma Baptist University.

"My son David and his wife, Teresa Taylor Gardner, are also partners in a Shawnee insurance agency, Gardner/Taylor & Associates. The company offers group health, life, and annuities," according to Gardner.

"My mother had a very important career as a homemaker, providing love and security for my sisters and me," Gardner said.

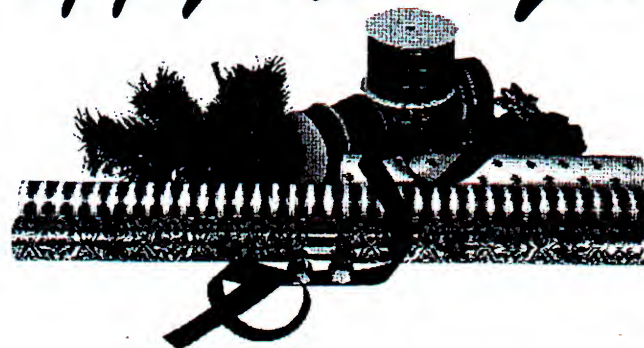
"My dad, Don Duvall, entered the Army at a very young age. He was stationed in Japan. After returning in 1948, he married my mom, Lola Mae Hembree. I was born in 1950. My sisters were born in 1952, 1954, and 1958," Gardner said. Don Duvall designed cemetery monuments to earn a living.

Janice Gardner traces her Potawatomi heritage through her father's ancestors. "My dad's great-great grandmother was Helen Beaubien."

In summary, Gardner told the *HowNiKan*, "My life has changed totally. It was family that brought me back to Shawnee. That and my faith in God have given me what I need to be happy."

Gardner attends the church where her grandfather, Walker Hembree, frequently preached in earlier years, the Central Church of Christ in downtown Shawnee.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
to all the Potawatomis from
all of us at your
tribally-owned bank!*



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AND TRUST CO.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK and TRUST CO.

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Response great to housing program

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Authority has experienced a tremendous response since the November issue of the *HowNiKan*, which carried the announcement of the startup of a major housing program.

"During the next few months we will announce other, different housing programs," said Robert B. Carlile, Housing Authority Director. "Already in operation, we have a HOME program that provides grants for as much as 50% of the cost of a house to qualified tribal members."

In order to be eligible for this grant the prospective homeowner has to have clear title to at least one and one half acres of land, located within the Citizen Potawatomi Nation jurisdiction. That is between the north bank of the North Canadian River, the south bank of the South Canadian River, the Pottawatomie-Seminole county line, and the Indian Meridian, which lies one-half mile west of the 167-mile marker on Interstate 40.

Other requirements that prospective homeowners must meet are: earning 80% of the median income limit for the greater Oklahoma City area, or less, and paying no more than a maximum cost for the home. Under this program, the new homeowner can pay no more than \$72,500 for a three-bedroom house; for a four-bedroom home, the maximum cost would be \$74,600.

This means that the new homeowner could have a mortgage of as little as \$36,250 for a three-bedroom home that is valued at the maximum of \$72,500. That figure would be \$37,300 for a four-bedroom home.

To be eligible for any of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation housing programs, tribal members must have a completed



The groundbreaking for the first HOME project represents the first house that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has ever built. It belongs to Margaret Zientek, who works for the Nation in Employment and Training. Pictured at the groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 1 are, from left: Linda Capps, Vice Chairman; Rocky Barrett, Chairman; Margaret Zientek, Homeowner; Bob Carlile, Housing Authority Director; Gene Bruno, Secretary-Treasurer; Hilton Melot, Committeeman; Wayne Grider, Contractor; Gerrie Norton, HUD; Sonja Key, HUD; and Larry Briggs, President, First National Bank.

housing application on file with the housing authority. People whose names appear on the list accompanying this article do not have completed applications on file.

The authority also encourages any other tribal members who have housing needs, and anyone else who is eligible for its assistance, to contact the authority office. The telephone number to request a housing application is (405) 878-4819.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Authority is structured differently than the Indian housing authori-

ties of the past. The authority does not plan to be in housing management; its emphasis will be on financing home ownership opportunities for Potawatomis.

The authority is attempting to finance tribal members' futures, not their pasts. The Nation owns a bank and is using the bank, HUD funding, and other funding sources to help Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members who live both inside and outside the tribal jurisdiction.

Is Your Form On File?

To receive assistance through the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Authority, tribal members and other eligible Native Americans must have a completed application on file with the authority. **People whose names are on the following list do not have completed applications on file.** They should contact the Housing Authority at 405-878-4819.

Abel, David; Alley, Regina; Anderson, Anita; Austin, Mary; Baack, Tammy; Barrett, John; Bedford, Liquori; Belcher, Rena; Bell, Jenise; Bell, Sylvia; Bennett, John; Billy, Carletta; Black, Billy; Bogges, Donald; Boyd, Patsy; Braun, Lucille; Brown, Donnie; Brown, Lisa; Bryant, John; Buckner, Rebecca; Byars, Sharon; Carpenter, Ella; Chance, Cathy; Chase The Bear, Ellsworth; Christmas, Susan; Clark, Christopher; and, Danker, Crystal.

Also, Dearmon, Margaret; Deatherage, Mark; Dixon, Shelly; Dougan, Randy; Edmon, David; Eisenberger, Pauline; Eskind, Delilah; Faxon, Cheryl; Foige, Dee; Foughty, Brian; Garver, Jerry; Gibson, Tracey; Golden, Elaine; Goodenough, Christine; Gottschalk, Clenda; Greenwalt, Kenneth; Grothaus, Rosalie; Hampton, Thelma; Hancock, Ray; Haralson, Linda; Harjo, Samantha; Harp, William; Hartness, Scott; and, Hawkins, Gary, Sr.

Also, Hennessey, Donna; Hinton, William; Holder, Byron; Holley, Pamela; Holloway, Morris; Horbach, Julie; Horner, Timothy; Howell, William; Huffman, Vesta; Humphreys, Amber; Ivy, Glenda; Jarvis, Stephanie; Jeffords, Mary; Jenks, Donna; Johnson, Herbert; Jones, Jackie; Jones, Maggie; Kekahbah, Angeline; Ketterman, Mark; Kiker, Chad; King, LaShawna; Kupiec, Sarah; Lackey, Stephen; Lamirand, Billy; Lehman, David; and, Lewis, Cleo.

Also, Leyendecker, Co Ann; Little Thunder, Tina; Lockwood, G. Jolene; Loftis, Thomas; Lyons, Kelly; Macon, Wesley; Malakoosky, Joseph; Marsee, Randall; Marshall, Felecia; Martin Phil; Matthews, Elaine; Maxwell, Justin; McMillan, Tina; Megah, Keith, Sr.; Melot, Anthony; Melot, Devon; Melot, Justin; Merrell, Ruth; Miles, Aleta; Miles, Wanda; Mitchell, Andrea; Mitchell, Mamie; Monks, Ronda; Monroe, Sherry; and, Montgomery, Debbie.

Also, Morgan, Scott; Moudy, Christinna; Murdock, B. Clarice; Murray, Frank; Murray, James; Nail, Edith; Negahnquet, Robert; New, Mary; Northcross, April; Oden, Loretta; Oglesby, Catherine; Oglesby, Philip; Oglesby, Tina; Peltier, Calvin; Penrod, Amon; Phillips, Ginger; Phillips, Jacqueline; Rains, Irma; Rhodd, Thomas; Rice, Christina; Riggie, Athena; Rush, Gary, Sr.; Sanders, Darlene; Sarratt, Decinda; and, Schoemann, Joe.

Also, Sexton, Timothy; Shirey, Amber; Showalter, Zandra; Silas, Charles; Silas, Matilda; Silas, Ronald; Simco, Doris; Simpson, Annamaria; Simpson, Donetta; Simpson, Wynema; Sloop, Sheila; Smith, Queen; Sparks, Paula; Sparks, Steven; Stephens, Catherine; Stillian, Carol; Stockdale, Kim; Stratton, Gene; Stuteville, Jennifer; Tascier, Thomas; Thompson, Czarina; Trader, Kim; Treat, Phyllis; and, Tsotaddle, Joseph, Jr.

Also, Tucker, Donna; Turner, Gladys; Vara, Nyokia; Veitenheimer, Dana; Veitenheimer, Peter, III; Vieux, Elizabeth; Walter, Gary; Ward, Kim; Ware, Henry; Wells, Carmon; White Sandra; Whitten, Darbi; Wickware, Carla; Wilburn, Penni; Williams, Kristen; Winkleman, Holli; Womack, Jerry; Woodward, Stephanie; and, Yowell, Michael.

Bill Nadeau named December Elder of Month

By Dennette Brand

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Title VI program, whose purpose is to assist in meeting the nutritional and socialization needs of Native American Elders, has selected Bill Nadeau as Elder of the Month for December.

Bill Nadeau is a Potawatomi Nation tribal member, and is a descendant of the Nadeau family. Bill was born in Shawnee in 1920. He has resided in Pottawatomie County his entire life. Bill has three children from a first marriage, two daughters and a son. Bill is currently married to Evelyn-Nadeau, who also enjoys the Title VI program and the activities it offers the elders.

In his spare time, Bill enjoys watching TV and going to the coffee shop to chat with "the guys". He also



enjoys the fellowship, the opportunity to meet new people, and the activities, such as bingo and dancing, that the Title VI Program offers.

When asked what he likes best, Mr. Nadeau replied, "The food and the staff. The food is good and the staff are

real nice."

Bill is an active member of the American Legion Post 260, in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. He spends a good deal of time helping with its activities, such as the dances on Thursday and Saturday evenings and bingo on Wednesday.

Most of all, Bill said that he hated to retire because, "I liked to work."

Bill believes that the Title VI program is a good program and that it gives the elders a good meal, friendship and, because of the friendships, all the participants get along.

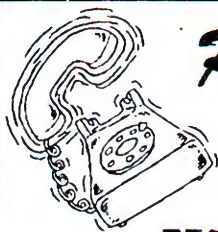
Denise Lackey, Director of Title VI, said, "Bill is a great participant and is a joy to have in the program."

If you would like to know more about the Elders Programs, contact Denise Lackey at (405) 878-4833.

Holiday Happenings



Christmas is a special season during which we reach out to family and friends. Citizen Potawatomi Nation employees enjoyed a fun time at their annual Holiday Gathering on Dec. 18. And, some special angels from the Nation's Day Care were ready for Santa, too.



Regional Office Directory

REGION 1 - OREGON/IDAHO

REGION 2 - WASHINGTON

(INCLUDES ALASKA & HAWAII)

Roscoe "Rocky" Baptiste

Box 346, 525 Ivy Ave., Gervais, OR 97026
Local (503) 792-3744 • FAX (503) 792-3744
Toll-Free (800) 522-3744
e-mail: Region01@Potawatomi.org

REGION 3 - NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jennifer J. Porter

5033 Vannoy Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546
Local (510) 886-4195 • Toll-Free (800) 874-8585
e-mail: Region03@Potawatomi.org

REGION 4 - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jeremy Bertrand Finch

250 Wigmore Drive, Pasadena, CA 91105
Local (626) 403-0930 • FAX (800) 432-2008
e-mail: Region04@Potawatomi.org

REGION 5 - SOUTHWEST

(INCLUDES ARIZONA & WESTERN NEW MEXICO)

Philonise Williams

20415 N. 29th St., Phoenix, AZ 85024
Local (602) 569-3073 • FAX (602) 569-6935
Toll-Free (800) 452-8966
e-mail: Region05@Potawatomi.org

REGION 6 - COLORADO

(INCLUDES MONTANA, UTAH, WYOMING,
WESTERN NEBRASKA, WESTERN KANSAS)

Penny Bishop

90 Meade Lane, Englewood, CO 80110
Local (303) 761-7021 • FAX (303) 761-1660
Toll-Free (800) 531-1140
e-mail: Region06@Potawatomi.org

REGION 7 - NORTHERN TEXAS

(INCLUDES EASTERN NEW MEXICO)

Marjorie Hobdy

3132 Kathy Lane, Irving, TX 75060
Local (972) 790-3075 • Toll-Free (800) 742-3075
e-mail: Region07@Potawatomi.org

REGION 8 - SOUTHERN TEXAS

Lu Ellis

26231 Huffsmith-Conroe Rd., Magnolia, TX 77355
Local (281) 356-7957 • Toll-Free (800) 272-7957
e-mail: Region08@Potawatomi.org

REGION 9 - MIDWEST

(INCLUDES EASTERN NEBRASKA & EASTERN KANSAS)

Maryann Bell

12516 Askew Dr., Grandview, MO 64030
Local (816) 761-2333 • Toll-Free (800) 325-6639
e-mail: Region09@Potawatomi.org

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is divided into different "Regional Offices" to help cover the extended membership across the nation. Originally labeled merely by region names, regional boundaries were established in late 1997 using the US Postal Service "3 digit" zip code areas. Region '0' is generally considered Oklahoma while the other states that are not numbered currently do not have an official "Region" designator.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Northern California

Ahau, niconi,

When you read this, we will be celebrating a new year — 1999! Wow, that's a lot of time since I began this life in 1949. So many things have changed and so many things haven't, eh?

The Business Committee has informed me that we will have another art contest at our regional meeting on March 6th. I don't have the deadlines yet, but go ahead and create. We had such a good turnout last year and I'm hoping for another good showing this year. I know everyone enjoyed it. I will have more information in my next report, but feel free

to call me before that to get forms and info. Norman Kiker is the contact person in Shawnee (800-880-9880).

A friend of mine directed my attention to a web site I have not explored before. It has a lot to offer in the way of history, genealogy, geography, and more. Try it out at:

<http://tri.net/~kheidelnativeamer/index.html>

Recently, I received a call from a new tribal member asking for general information about the tribe, what is available in the way of services and any cultural information that might be had. I sent what I had

and referred him to Shawnee for anything further. I mention this to encourage all of you to learn and share with your children our history and culture. I am always happy to assist with printed material, with what little I know myself, and with referrals to those who know more than I. Please don't hesitate to call.

I hope your Christmas season was filled with love and peace and that your New Year will bring you all you wish for.

Bama pi,

— Jennifer J. Porter

Oregon/Idaho/Washington

Bozho Nicon,

How are you all this month? (Ni ji na?) We are doing fine here in the wet part of the United States. While the New Year is upon us, may I take this time to wish all of you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year and that our Creator will be good to you all year, as he has to me and my family this past year.

What big and new strides our home team in Shawnee is making. Someday I hope we will all be able to share a little more in our tribe and its affairs. In the meantime, let's all take advantage of our brother tribes here in the Northwest. Go to their gatherings whenever you are invited, help by participating and dancing and talk to the elders, because they can teach you.

The Confederated Tribes of The Grand Ronde Community of Oregon has been contacted by Champoege State Park concerning Native American arts and crafts items to sell in their interpretive store. Currently the store features some Native American arts and crafts made by natives from Minnesota.

The Park officials would like to change that and offer the local Indian community an opportunity to market their wares in the store. They are looking to feature authentic representations of items indig-

enous to the area. They have specifically invited members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde because Champoege Park is located on an old Kalapuya village site. However, Champoege Park officials have extended this invitation to include all Oregon Native American Artisans and I'm sure they would also accept items from Washington and Idaho as well. They want to feature smaller items that the average tourist would be likely to purchase, versus larger, more expensive items.

The Friends of Historic Champoege is the nonprofit organization that manages the interpretive store and they have

a budget to purchase initial inventory outright. That is not to say that they would not consider the consignment of larger more expensive items if an artist desires. If you have any items on hand and would like to sell them to the Champeog Interpretive Store, you may contact Michael Niss, Visitor Services Team Leader, at (503) 678-1251 Ext. 222.

Until next time, I hope to see you around at some of the gatherings and pow-wows and remember to give me a call. Also if you have the Internet on your computer, catch me there and give me an e-mail.

Megwich,

— Rocky Baptiste

Pinkston attends conference

Money Concepts International, Inc. personnel from across the United States gathered in Jupiter, Florida in early December for the international financial planning network's annual planning conference.

Karen Pinkston, who manages the Money Concepts Financial Planning Centre at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's First National Bank and Trust Co. of Shawnee, attended.

The conference was held from December 9 through 12. "This important annual planning event was attended by Money Concepts International Advisory Board Members, financial planning centre owners, and the network's associates from all over the United States," Pinkston said. "There were also representatives there from England, the Republic of Ireland, and Puerto Rico."

Pinkston said that the annual planning conference was a valuable opportunity for Money Concepts personnel to make plans to meet their customers' financial planning needs in a rapidly changing environment.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Northern Texas

I am writing this the first part of December and winter weather has finally arrived and we're expecting our first frost. The leaves were beautiful this year and no one could explain it. Seems the drought played a part in that, too.

In my last article I did not mention those who were given special recognition at our regional meeting. The wisest was Dorothy Whitebread. She has been recognized before and continues to astound us with her gracious aging. The person who traveled the farthest was Vernon Peery. Vernon has been recognized before for being wisest. The youngest was Ashleigh Marie Snell, daughter of David and Stacy Snell and granddaughter of Rose Marie Snell. Rose Marie Snell was the very able judge of the art competition.

We only had one entry this year. Donna Barnard was the winner with a lovely painting. We hope to get information to everyone next year and have more entries, but it's a good bet that Donna will be a front runner anyway. But she would welcome the competition. A close runner-up for the youngest was John Jackson Barrett III who attended with his mother, Tiffany Barrett.

There is a lag in time this article is being written and the time you will be reading it, so my message may be a little late. I want to wish all of you a blessed Christmas and a great beginning for 1999, the countdown for the year 2000. I hope that you were able to gather as a family and enjoy this time to reflect on our many blessings. I am grateful for the opportunity to get to know more about those of you who call. And I look forward to hearing from you in the New Year.

Now that our Regional meeting is behind us, we can make plans for Pow Wow and the business council meeting in Shawnee the last weekend in June. If I can help, give me a call. Remember, my e-mail address is Region07@Potawatomi.org and I am so excited when I get an e-mail message.

— Marj Hody

Southern Texas

Bosho mine' Nde nwe ma ngek,
(Hello again, my relatives),

Ni je na, ngom? (How are you today?)

Is it 1999 already? Where has the last year gone? As we grow older, time moves faster?

We anticipate many good things in this New Year. A new beginning is a hopeful thing. Time to work on new projects. Time to visit with old friends and make new ones.

I shall start work on a new painting, and "bead" some beautiful things. These creative endeavors give me pleasure. (I have some work scheduled, too.)

The winter months are being good to us. Our children and grandchildren are coming together to study with us. They see that we must be able to talk together if our language and culture are to live. One person cannot do this alone. We are blessed that they want to do this. We are grateful.

When many come together, anything can happen.

I was looking recently at some of the things I have gathered around me in the past months. One of them is a list of "Rules to Live By." I shall not try to give you any rules, but I shall share with you a couple of the ones I like best.

"Listen to and follow the guidance given to your heart. Expect guidance to come in many forms; in prayer, in dreams, in times of quiet solitude, and in the words and deeds of wise Elders and good friends."

With that, I wish you all a prosperous and happy new beginning. Set your goals high, have hope and trust in the Father of us All, and make this year of 1999 one of the best you've ever had.

We shall come together here in Houston on March 20th. If you have any ideas about what you want to see happen on that day, call me. The agenda is not set, yet.

"Serve others, be of some use to your family, community, nation, and the world in which you live. That is one of the main reasons human beings were created."

Know that you are loved.

ma pi ngotdek,

— Lu Ellis



1998-99 Regional Council Schedule

Denver	Oct. 1, 1998
Dallas	Nov. 7, 1998
Southern California	Jan. 16, 1999
Phoenix	Feb. 6, 1999
Northern California	March 6, 1999
Houston	March 20, 1999
Seattle/Portland	April 24, 1999
Kansas City	May 15, 1999

Potawatomi Art Contest

Enrolled Citizen Potawatomi artists are encouraged to enter the 1999 art competitions to be conducted at each Regional Council meeting. Artists must bring their work to their individual Regional Council Meeting to be shown or make arrangements for the work to be shown and returned to them safely. Regional competition prizes are: \$150 First Prize, \$100 Second Prize, and \$50 Third Prize.

Please contact your Regional Director if you wish to enter your work at your Regional Council Meeting. There is no entry fee for regional competitions.

Each artist is limited to three entries.

Artists who win first, second and third prize will advance to enter a second round of competition.

Those not represented by Regional Directors or Regional Areas:

Tribal members not represented by a Regional Director should write for applications in order to enter a Regional Competition in Oklahoma. Winners of the competition in Shawnee are then eligible for entry to the Oklahoma Regional Grand Prize Art Competition.

Second Round Grand Prize Competitions

The following instructions are for winners of Regional Competitions, who will be judged the first week of June 1998: Submit 35 mm slides in standard mounts (no glass mounts), with one slide for each one-dimensional piece and two or three slides for each three-dimensional piece (one detail shot).

Slides should be labeled with the artist's name, title of the work, date completed, media and dimension (HxWxD). A self-addressed stamped envelope for return must accompany the slides. Entries must have been completed within the past two years and all entries must be the work of the artists (Regional & Second Competition). Acceptance and awards are at the discretion of the juror.

First prize will be \$300, second \$200, and third \$100.

Artist will be notified by mail as soon as the competition judging is completed.

On May 30th those individuals with entries at Regional Council Meeting in Kansas City must have all required information and materials in the hands of your Regional Director in order for it to be submitted for final competition. Send no actual art work, only slides and other requirements. (Winners of Kansas Regional Competition will be judged and announced at Kansas Council.)

DEADLINE for Second Round Art Competition applications and other required information is Wednesday, June 2, 1999.

The winners of the Second Round Grand Prize Art Competition will be brought to Shawnee for the 1998 Potawatomi General Council and Pow-Wow. Winning art work will be shown at that time. For More Information, contact: Citizen Potawatomi Nation-Art Competition, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801, Attn: Norman Kiker, phone 1-800-880-9880.



Bowman wears tribal seal in Ironman Triathlon

By Michael Dodson

Ron Bowman, the Citizen Potawatomi tribal member whom you met in a recent edition of the *HowNiKan*, has reported in from the Ironman Triathlon competition in Hawaii.

Since first gaining notoriety in 1978, the Ironman has become the ultimate challenge for triathletes. 100,000 world-wide competed for Ironman slots. Bowman was one of 1,550 who were invited to compete.

A triathlon consists of a long swim, run, and bike ride. The Ironman distances are a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile endurance bike ride, and a marathon run of 26 miles 385 yards.

The Ironman is competed on the first Saturday in October that is chronologically near a full moon. "A lot of us who compete will be finishing after dark," Bowman explained. "Having a full moon just provides a little bit more light for the late-finishing competitors and the volunteers."

Bowman finished his first Ironman in 16 hours 31 minutes. "That put me in 1364th position," he reported. "1390 of the triathletes finished. There were 22 of the top pros who were not able to complete the course."

The swim began the day, just

as the sun peeked over the horizon. The water temperature was 78 degrees, causing the athletes to begin dehydrating right away. Bowman finished the swim in 1 hour 42 minutes. "That was very good for me, particularly considering that I veered off course for about a quarter-mile," he said.

Bowman calls this Ironman's bicycling component "one of the most grueling events that I've ever done. It was deceptive because we had no wind and it had not become hot during the first 18 miles. After that, though, we experienced 40 to 45 mile-an-hour headwinds, with some 50 mile-an-hour gusts blowing across our path." Some bikers were blown into the lavafields alongside the road.

Air temperatures reached 90 during the bike ride, with asphalt temperatures at 105. That caused some bikers' tires to blow. With the strong tailwinds, the bikers were frequently on the edge of losing control of their bikes.

"I remember having white knuckles because I was concentrating so much on maintaining control," Bowman said.

The run was another interesting experience for the Potawatomi athlete. "The final 2 miles, I was on a cloud. I didn't even feel it. I don't think my



Bowman Crosses Finish Line In Triathlon

feet were touching the ground as I was finishing that last mile."

The event is organized well and the volunteers are gracious and helpful, according to Bowman. "The support was just tremendous along the course. There was plenty of water, plenty of food and sustenance. I

got to spend a lot of time talking to the other competitors."

For a while, Bowman ran alongside Sister Mary Ann Brouder, a Catholic nun, who is a triathlon veteran at age 68. He also ran with Mike Adamle, the former college and NFL running back who is now an ESPN

football analyst.

"One of my biggest thrills came about a mile before we entered town, about three miles from the finish line," Bowman said. "I could hear the crowds cheering and the announcers off in the distance. Boy, that was a big lift!"

At 11:30 p.m., as Bowman finished, crowds were four and five people deep along the route. "Even the winners and the other pros who competed were there at the finish line for us later finishers," Bowman said. "Some of them had finished as much as eight and nine hours earlier. You don't often see that."

Again, Bowman stressed that others can accomplish at similar levels in whatever endeavors they choose. "You must choose and set a goal. Then, you must do whatever it takes to meet that goal. It's also important to enjoy what you are doing," Bowman advises.

He says that one must also know himself well. "You need to know what your limitations are at any particular moment, while getting the most from what you do have."

Bowman is very proud that he was able to obtain a Citizen Potawatomi Nation seal, which he had sewn onto the shirt he wore in the Ironman Triathlon.



Deborah Anderson weds Eric J. Keller Aug. 30

Deborah M. Anderson, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, wed Eric J. Keller on August 30th of this year. The ceremony and reception were held on a bluff overlooking Puget Sound, at the Daybreak Star Indian Center in Seattle, Washington.

A Northwest-style salmon barbecue followed the ceremony. The Kellers celebrated their honeymoon exploring Costa Rica.

Deborah (Anderson) Keller is in her final year of studies at Bastyr University. She is studying to become a Naturopathic Physician and Midwife.

Eric Keller works for Flury and Company, Ltd., an art gallery that specializes in antique Native American art and the vintage photographic works of Edward S. Curtis, *The North American Indian* (1907-1930).

Deborah is the daughter of Kent and Margaret Anderson.

AFTER HOURS POLICE CALLS

Dave Kubiak, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Police Chief, says that anyone who needs to reach the Nation's Police Department outside the business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or on weekends should call the Potawatomi County Sheriff's Department. The Nation has an agreement with the Sheriff's Department to receive dispatching services outside regular business hours.

The Sheriff's Department telephone number is 405-273-1727.

During normal business hours, Monday through Friday, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Police Department can be reached at 405-874-819 or at 800-880-9886.

Tribal member helps keep peace keepers well fed

By Michael Dodson

(Aboard the Harry S. Truman)

As the U.S.S. Harry S. Truman patrols the seas, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation shoulders the responsibility of ensuring the aircraft carrier's supply rooms are fully stocked.

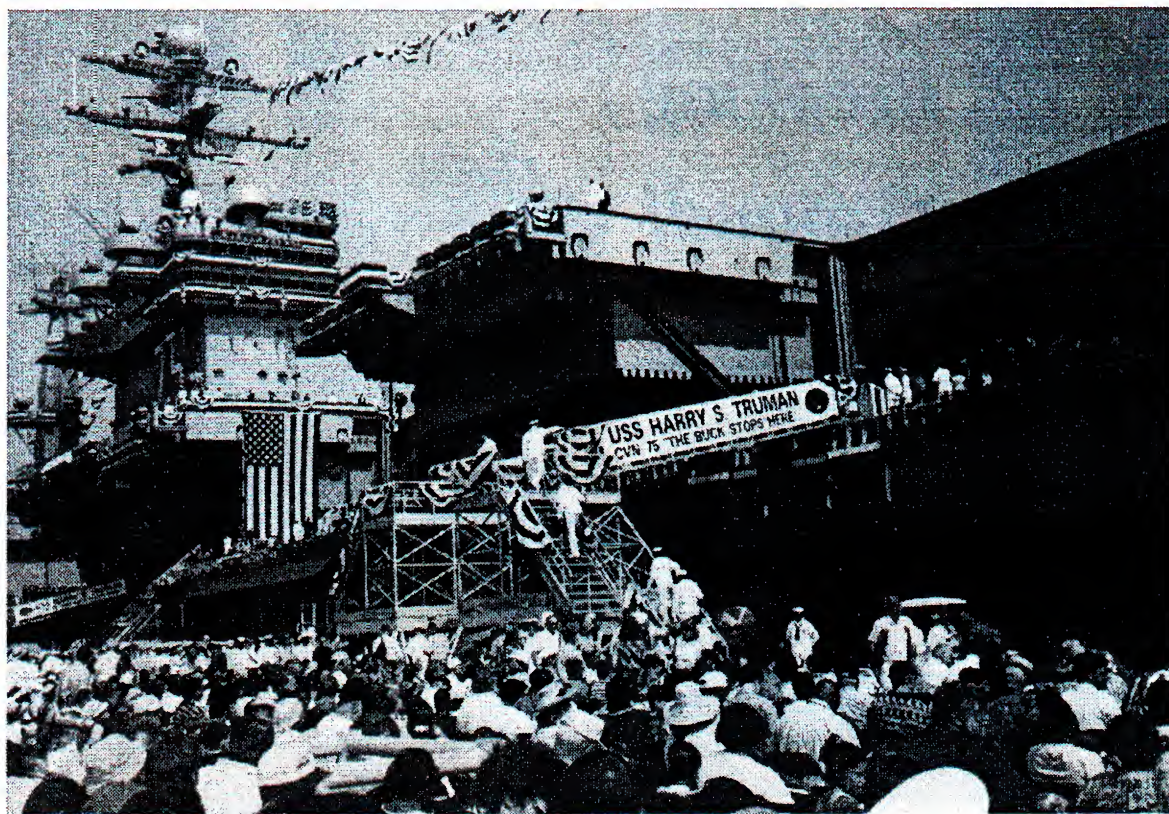
Lt. Annabelle Pittman is the daughter of Citizen Potawatomi tribal member Rena Belcher of Shawnee. Lt. Pittman is a 21-year veteran of the United States Navy. Her current assignment is as the Material Division Officer within the Supply Department aboard the Harry S. Truman.

"As the Material Division Officer," Lt. Pittman told the *HowNiKan*, I am responsible for receipt, stowage, issue, and inventory of consumable material. All material coming onto or going off the ship is coordinated through me."

Lt. Pittman's office maintains 39 storerooms and an inventory of 16,000 line items. During underway periods (when the ship is at sea), her office also manages the at-sea replenishments and vertical replenishments.

Her duties bear a heavy responsibility — and Lt. Pittman is aware of it. "Without the material requirements' being met, essential ship operating systems cannot be maintained, personnel support requirements cannot be met, and aircraft cannot be launched," she said.

Knowledge gained in schools and training and experience earned on the job prepared Lt. Pittman for these responsibilities. "As a Limited Duty Officer, commissioned from the enlisted ranks, I draw on my first-hand knowledge and experience. I also use (what I learned at) the Supply Corps Officer School and the Joint



The July 1998 Commissioning Of Lt. Pittman's Ship, The USS Harry S. Truman

Aviation Supply Maintenance Management Course."

Lt. Pittman joined the Navy "to experience more in life and receive an education that is not offered in books." She also wanted to move beyond the limited opportunities in her small hometown.

The highlights of Lt. Pittman's Navy career are varied. They include: the opportunity to experience launch and recovery on an aircraft carrier deck; earning "Sailor of the Year" honors three times, going to Washington, D.C. to compete for the awards; and, living in Bermuda.

Annabelle Pittman says that her greatest U.S. Navy achievement is "knowing that I have had a positive impact on many junior personnel and my peers and the knowledge that I contributed significantly to enforcing and maintaining

many freedoms that most Americans take for granted."

She believes that her Navy experience has made her a much stronger person with a multitude of marketable skills. Pittman plans to continue to serve the U.S.A., through the Navy, until retirement time. Following that, she would like to serve as a substitute teacher until she and her husband David are prepared to own and operate a bowling center. The Pittman family plans to pursue life-after-the-Navy in Mississippi or Georgia. It would be Mississippi if employment offers take them there or Georgia because they own a



Lt. Pittman At White House

home there.

Life in the military has taught Lt. Pittman to "always be upfront and direct, say what you mean, and ensure that the

(person you're talking to) is of the same mind. Some words or actions that mean one thing to one person might mean something else to another; always clarify your statement."

When she does retire to substitute teaching and bowling alley ownership, Lt. Pittman will take important, pleasant memories of her naval career. "These are memories of the people I have worked with and the experiences I have gleaned," she said. "They involve leadership and management of people and processes, and the direct impact one has. I also treasure the experience and understanding that I have received from serving with a diversified group of people."

Lt. Pittman has this advice for anyone considering entering the Navy: "Talk to personnel that are serving in the rating (job classification) that you are interested in. Use the education opportunities that are offered. Earn your respective warfare designator. Don't wait until you decide whether to re-enlist, just do it and leave your options open."

A considerable amount of time away from home, at sea, is a given as a result of Lt. Pittman's Navy career. Husband David and the Pittman children, 18-year-old Travis and 7-year-old Samantha, have learned to handle it quite well.

"David is a former Navy man. He understands. And, Travis and Samantha have grown up around the military. It has become an accepted way of life in our family," Lt. Pittman said. "That does not mean it is any easier to part. But, we know it is only for a short time. We rely a great deal on each other and know, if necessary, that an extremely large support system is available to assist."

Vice chairman tells fifth grade girls to believe in themselves

By Dennette Brand

"GirlPower! GirlPower! GirlPower!" That was the message that echoed through the Geiger Center at Oklahoma Baptist University recently. As part of a two-day Girl Power Conference, Linda Capps, Vice Chairman of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, delivered an inspirational speech to fifth-grade girls from schools in Pottawatomie County.

"I am important. I am special." Each side of the room stood and repeated those words. Ms. Capps asked the girls to realize that, no matter what, they are important and special in their own ways — important to their families and to

their communities.

Capps told her audience that, if they did not learn anything else from the event, they should remember what her mother once told her, "Do not be jealous, do not gossip, apply the Golden Rule, and realize you are no better than anyone else but are as good as the next person."

"Not being as pretty or smart or athletic or funny as the next person does not mean that you do not have some quality about you that the next person doesn't possess," Capps said.

"Say nothing often," Capps advised, "because it is better to say nothing than to say something you will regret later."

Quoting the Golden Rule — "do unto others as you would have them do to you" — Ms. Capps requested that the girls understand how important making that rule a part of their lives can be.

The Potawatomi leader also stressed that diversity is another important issue in our lives. She spoke of her experience in race and ethnicity, giving the girls the acronym that Disney has developed — RAVE. It stands for Respect Appreciate/Value Everyone.

"This world would be a better place if everyone lived by the RAVE acronym," said Capps. She stressed to the girls that they should treat everyone as an equal,

"red, yellow, black, and white — everybody."

The girls should also "bloom where you are planted," Capps said. An El Reno, Oklahoma fifth-grade teacher has adopted that slogan. Capps told the girls that this means different things to different people, but that they must make the best of whatever their situation is, thus blooming where they are planted.

In closing, Capps told the girls that they have choices. "Choose to think good thoughts not bad thoughts; choose to be in a good mood, not a bad mood, and remember that the choice is yours," she advised.



Breaking Ground!



Construction is progressing nicely on the CPN Health Clinic expansion. Ground was broken and the site was blessed in a Dec. 1 ceremony. The expansion will triple the clinic's size, allowing the addition of more services and doctors.

Capps accepts award for tribe's banking enterprise

Continued from page 1

"We are proud of what we are able to accomplish for Native Americans in Pottawatomie County and for all of the surrounding area through the bank's services."

Capps said that First National has recently set up a mortgage-lending department, with Linda Hoisington in charge. "This step will help Citizen Potawatomi tribal members obtain home loans," Capps said. "And, it will be an asset to anyone in the bank's service area who is ready to take the important step into home ownership."

In presenting her award, Dennis Dowell, ONABDC Director, said of Ms. Skeeter, "Dedication and commitment are the best way to describe her. Carmelita Skeeter is a person who always gives of herself, going the extra mile to implement, develop, and provide resources for people in need."

Ms. Skeeter began her affiliation with the Indian Health Center as resource coordinator in 1976. She earned a promotion to Clinic Director in 1978. Eleven years later, she became the Health Center's Executive Director.

"Ms. Skeeter has been very instrumental in developing and implementing programs at the center, to provide a full range of services to Native Americans in this area," Dowell said.

Under Ms. Skeeter's leadership, a new home for the Tulsa

Indian Health Center, a new \$4 million clinic, is being built at the corner of Sixth and Peoria. The Health Center employs 50, providing health care services to 30,000 Native Americans in Tulsa and keeping families intact through a family preservation program.

Ms. Skeeter is actively involved with: the American Indian Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission, the Tulsa Human Rights Commission, The American Indian Heritage Center, the American Indian Theater Company of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women, the Chamber of Commerce Goals of Tulsa Committee, and other organizations too numerous to mention.

In March, Ms. Skeeter earned the Pinnacle Award, which is presented by the Tulsa Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women. It recognizes and promotes women for their accomplishments in Tulsa. In October, the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women named her its Indian Woman of the Year.

"All of the Potawatomi Nation is proud of Carmelita and everything she has done to enhance Native Americans' opportunity to receive first-class health care," Capps said. "Many recognize her as one of Oklahoma's most distinguished First Ladies of Health. That's a most appropriate designation." With more than 25,000



ONABDC's Ron Blue Looks On As Linda Capps Expresses Appreciation For Business Award

members, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is the tenth largest of the federally recognized Native American nations and tribes. Through its government services and owned-and-operated business enterprises, the Potawatomi Nation employs more than 380 people. Thus, it is the eighth largest employer in Shawnee, Okla-

homa.

The Oklahoma Native American Business Development Center is in its 13th year of providing business development assistance to Native American-owned businesses and to Native Americans considering establishing businesses.

Other award winners include: Monetta Trepp,

American Indian Artists Advocate; Jim and Elizabeth Gray, owners and publishers of the *Oklahoma Indian Times* newspaper, Native American Advocates; Simple Simon Pizza, Native American Retail Business; Grant Manufacturing & Equipment, Native American Manufacturing Business; the Ross Group, Native American Construction Business; C&P Manufacturing, Native American Business Start-up; McGrath Construction, Native American Small Business; HPT, Inc., which provides engineering, design, fabrication, and construction services for hydrocarbon processing, Native American Professional Service; Holloway Wire Rope, Native American Supplier/Distributor; and, Southwestern Bell, Corporation of the Year for its commitment to long-term relationships with Native American and other minority suppliers.

In addition, the Native American Chamber of Commerce honored Prime Oil Company of Oklahoma City and Teaco, Inc. of Tulsa as American Indian Businesses of the Year for its chapters in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

The ONABDC also recognized Sharon King Davis, President of King Investments, for her tireless work on behalf of Tulsa's Native American citizens, telling their stories to a wide and important audience and helping Native American artisans and business people market their products.